



Impress with egress



Senior Master Sgt. Shane Clark, a member of the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General team, gives feedback to a Randolph fire department crew following an egress drill Wednesday involving Capt. Jian Pena of the 99th Flying Training Squadron. The exercise was part of the fire department's operational readiness inspection being conducted at the 12th Flying Training Wing through Tuesday. (Photo by Melissa Peterson)

A message to the Airmen of the U.S. Air Force

By Gen. T. Michael Moseley
Air Force Chief of Staff

We are a nation at war. Today marks the 1,440th day we've been fighting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. World War II lasted 1,347 days. We've now been fighting the Global War on Terror for two and a half months longer than World War II.

From the day DESERT STORM kicked off, January 17 1991, the Air Force has been in continuous combat. For 14 years our enemies have shot at us and for 14 years we've returned the favor. But no matter how long the road, we must never lose our focus on winning this fight.

Today, we are engaged more than ever ... from across the globe to here at home. From taking the fight to the enemy in Iraq; to rebuilding lives in the wake of hurricane Katrina; to controlling satellites on the other side of the world; to fighting forest fires in the Rockies; to patrolling the skies over America - you can be proud of the work your Air Force is doing to protect our country. I'm incredibly proud to be a member of an Air Force family that

“Our promise to the joint team is that as Airmen we will always be the best in the world at what we do: dominating Air and Space from one inch above the ground to 100,000 miles above the earth.”

has over 106,000 Airmen assigned or deployed in 64 countries, on every continent, and in every time zone throughout the world.

We have handled each and every task brought before us with lethal efficiency, because of you. It is an honor to work and fight alongside you in service to our Republic. The 684,000 active, Reserve, Guard, and civilians of the United States Air Force are truly a total force. We stand alongside our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine brethren ready to answer the Nation's call. We fight together. We triumph together. Our promise to the joint team is that as

Airmen we will always be the best in the world at what we do: dominating Air and Space from one inch above the ground to 100,000 miles above the earth.

Today, we have three major challenges facing our Air Force. First and foremost is accomplishing the combatant tasks the president and secretary of defense assign. The tasks will be ones we've done before and ones we've never undertaken. Second, we must preserve that which makes us the most feared Air Force in the world - our people.

Our culture of excellence must continue to develop Airmen ... Airmen who are the most adaptable, most skilled, most professional and most lethal the world has ever known. Third, we face the difficult task of operating the oldest inventory in the history of the United States Air Force. My senior leadership will work to break this vicious cycle. I need you, our Airmen on the line, to continue making the mission happen.

As we work towards a more secure, more peaceful tomorrow ... look around. Behind us you'll see a proud,



Gen. T. Michael Moseley

CSAF
SIGHT
PICTURE
★★★★

rich heritage. And in front of us is a limitless horizon. So let's push it up, go to work and make the mission happen.

12th Flying Training Wing Training Status											
Pilot Instructor Training <small>As of Monday</small>			Navigator, EWO Students				Wing Flying Hour Program				
			562nd FTS		563rd FTS		Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual	
Squadron	Seniors	Overall	CSO/NFO		CSO	Graduate EWO					
99th FTS	-5.0	-1.0	USAF	242	OPS	International	0	T-1A	11421.3	11569.4	12,034
558th FTS	-1.2	-1.2	Navy	55	Advanced EW	EW Course	0	T-6A	16160.0	16503.5	17,290
559th FTS	-3.0	-2.4	International	3	Integration	Intro to EW	18	T-37B	8240.8	8430.0	8,444
560th FTS	-1.9	-1.9	Total in Training	300			18	T-38C	9561.4	9514.5	10,204
<small>Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.</small>			<small>Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.</small>				<small>The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2004 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2005.</small>				

AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

As of Monday, 87 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe

“**PROTECT
YOUR
WINGMAN**”

DUI...
**It's a crime
not a mistake**

**Team Randolph's
last DUI was
July 16, 2005**

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency Contact Numbers

12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Sexual Assault	
Response Coordinator	652-8787
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314



**Dedicated
June 20, 1930,
Randolph celebrates its
75th Anniversary in 2005**
Graphic by Michelle DeLeon

WINGSPREAD

**12th Flying Training Wing
Editorial Staff**

Col. John Hesterman
Commander
Capt. Paul Villagran
Chief of Public Affairs
Jillian Speake
Editor

**Prime Time Military Newspaper
Contract Staff**

Jennifer Valentin
Bob Hieronymus
Staff Writers
Maggie Armstrong
Graphic Designer

Wingspread office:

1 Washington Circle, Suite 4
Randolph AFB, Texas 78150
Phone: (210) 652-5760
Fax: (210) 652-5412

Wingspread Advertisements:

Prime Time Military Newspapers
7137 Military Drive West
San Antonio, Texas 78227
Phone: (210) 675-4500
Fax: (210) 675-4577

Wingspread online:

www.randolph.af.mil/12ftw/wing/pa/wingspread.htm

This paper is published by Prime Time Military Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Randolph AFB, Texas. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Wingspread are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or Prime Time Military Newspapers of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Division of the 12th Flying Training Wing in accordance with local policy and style guidance. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

By Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Fifty-eight years ago, President Harry Truman boarded his VC-54C aircraft on a day that would go down in history.

When July 26, 1947, dawned, the aircraft nicknamed the "Sacred Cow" was famous for being the first military aircraft to ever transport a president of the United States.

By the end of the day, however, it would take on a much more significant role as the birthplace of the U.S. Air Force.

That day, President Truman signed the National Security Act, that created the Air Force. Nearly two months later, on Sept. 18, the new branch began functioning as a separate and independent entity in charge of offensive and defensive air operations.

Since that historic milestone, our



service has evolved to meet, head on, each new challenge our nation faces.

Even before President Truman put this nation's Air Force into service, Randolph had a proven history of its own. Since the early 1930s, the base had been conducting flying training operations under the name "Randolph Field." Pilots here trained in the basic and primary phases of flying, returned for instructor pilot training or went through combat crew training.

A few months after the Air Force became a separate service in 1947, Randolph Field was renamed

Randolph Air Force Base, but continued its proven mission of preparing Airmen for flying operations.

Now in its 75th year of existence, Randolph continues to play an integral role in the Air Force mission by not only continuing the tradition of flying training excellence but by also supporting contingency operations worldwide.

The Air Force might be the youngest of all the branches, but fueled by heart, professionalism and determination, it continues to raise the bar of excellence and ensure it is the most respected air and space force in the world.

On Sept. 18, I encourage each of you to take a few minutes out of your day to reflect on how far we've come and the endless possibilities our future holds.

Happy 58th Birthday, Air Force!

People who genuinely care are out there

By Tech. Sgt. Tony Moon
336th Training Squadron

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – Life becomes so routine we get into everyday customs and forget why we do our job or what it is we stand for.

One routine for me was an optometry appointment for my 4-year-old daughter, Caroline, several weeks ago. She has a lazy eye that requires a thick lens and many appointments to go with it.

During probably our fourth appointment, she asked me, "Daddy can we go to the crab restaurant for lunch?" She was referring to Red Lobster on Highway 90 in Gulfport. Our student load is very low right now and I wasn't teaching that day, so I agreed we could go there.

Lunch was very typical – my youngest daughter, Tessa, 2, was naturally wound up and creating havoc for us, the people in the booth next to us and the restaurant staff. She ran from table to table with my battle dress uniform cap on her head. People would look at her, then smile at my wife and me.

I wasn't sure what message they were conveying – "Control your daughter" or "She's really cute" – so I just smiled back and wondered what they thought of this Air Force member and his family.

As I tried to calm Tessa down for the umpteenth time, a waitress from another table approached ours. "Oh no," I thought, "what did Tessa do now?"

I was surprised and touched when the waitress said, "Don't worry about your ticket; it's been taken care of." At first, I didn't know what to say as I looked across the table at my wife and daughter. Then I asked the waitress to point out the

Our paths may never cross again as he was passing through on his way to Florida, but I'll never forget him. What he did came at a time when I needed to feel appreciated professionally.

person responsible for this act of kindness. She pointed in the direction of a man sitting alone at a booth. He never made eye contact with me.

When he left his booth, I caught up to him and put my hand on his shoulder. As he turned around, I extended my hand in his direction. He smiled while I thanked him and explained that no one had ever done that before.

He shook my hand firmly and glanced at my family. He said with great pride in his voice that his father was a veteran and that he appreciates what military families do for our country. He told me his family named their company "Veterans Oil" in honor of those who serve.

Our paths may never cross again as he was passing through on his way to Florida, but I'll never forget him. What he did came at a time when I needed to feel appreciated professionally. He never asked about my job or whether I'd been deployed. He just wanted to show there are people out there who genuinely care about us, the freedom we provide and the sacrifices our families make.

Knowing this, I've decided Tessa can run around in my BDU cap anytime she wants.

Congratulations Retirees

Yesterday
Master Sgt. Kimberly Ghormley
Air Education and Training Command

September 23
Chief Master Sgt. Winfred Leonard
Defense Accounting and Finance System

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the *Wingspread* office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the *Wingspread* office at 652-5760.

AF announces JAG promotions

Two Randolph majors received the good news Wednesday that they are on the Judge Advocate General lieutenant colonel promotion list. They are among the 29 selected of 149 majors eligible Air Force-wide. Members who tested will be able to view their score notice on the virtual Military Personnel Flight. Score notices allow Airmen to see how

their Promotion Fitness Examination and Specialty Knowledge Test scores rank against those they're directly competing with for promotion within their Air Force Specialty Code. The entire list of selectees is posted on www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/offprom/. The Randolph promotees are:



Air Education and Training Command
Michael Roberts
19th Air Force
Jaime Sampayo

- In-the-promotion zone**
 - 28 selected from 34 considered for an 82.4 percent select rate
- Above-the-promotion zone**
 - 0 selected from 43 considered for a 0 percent select rate
- Below-the-promotion zone**
 - 1 selected from 72 considered for a 1.4 percent select rate

New policy decreases threat of identity theft

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller and the Under Secretary of Defense Personnel and Readiness have co-signed a new policy that directs all military departments and all defense civilian employees to support the policy to eliminate paper copies of leave and earning statements and W-2 tax statements. Under the new policy, military members and civilian non-bargaining employees who log on to the myPay Web site after Sept. 1, 2005, are consenting to receive electronic copies of their documents.

The myPay Web site is currently available to all Department of Defense military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants. Although the policy applies to DoD military members and DoD civilians, the benefits of using myPay to eliminate identity theft associated with postal delivery of these statements also applies to retirees

“Under the new policy, military members and civilian non-bargaining employees who log on to the myPay Web site after Sept. 1, 2005, are consenting to receive electronic copies of their documents.”

and annuitants for their 1099 tax statements. For many years, myPay has provided military members and civilian employees with a secure method to view, print and save their LES, W-2 or 1099s electronically. By using myPay to view and print LES and W-2 statements, the names, addresses and social security numbers are protected. The member determines when the

document is viewed and printed and sensitive data is under control at all times. This is particularly important for W-2s and 1099s, where the SSN cannot be masked due to Internal Revenue Service regulations. In addition to obtaining electronic copies of LESs and tax statements, customers can make adjustments to federal and state tax withholdings and update bank account and electronic transfers by accessing myPay. Military members, civilian employees, retirees, and annuitants can access myPay by requesting a personal identification number at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> or by calling 1-800-390-2348. Today, myPay has more than three million users with customized PINs and serves all military members, military retirees and annuitants and Department of Defense civilian employees. (Courtesy of Defense Finance and Accounting Service)

Tuition assistance now online

Air Force members no longer have to stand in line to accomplish a tuition assistance request. As of Sept. 2, students can now accomplish this request directly from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center without having to go to the education center. People may access AFVEC directly through the web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal. Members will be required to logon through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New "My AFVEC" users will be required to create an account. Upon successful registration, Air Force members can select the "Request TA" option to begin the process of requesting tuition assistance. In addition, a PowerPoint tutorial has been made available in this section to provide instructions on how to process an on-line TA application. It is important to note, Air Force members will be required to know and enter basic course registration information in the on-line TA request. They must know, among other things, the school's exact term start and end dates, course code, course title and cost per semester or quarter hour. Once the member has entered and reviewed the

TA request information, the request will be forwarded electronically to the education center for final review and approval. The member will be notified and a copy of the electronically signed TA form will sent to them via e-mail and through their "My AFVEC" account when the TA request is approved. AFVEC is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about educational information and benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide students one-stop-shopping for all higher education needs. In addition to the on-line TA request, AFVEC offers a wide array of on-line services to empower the student to actively participate in all aspects of their education. These services include requesting tuition assistance, working towards their Community College of the Air Force degree, applying for commissioning or testing for PME completion. To learn more about the Air Force Virtual Education Center and "My AFVEC," please visit the education center or logon to AFVEC through the Air Force Portal at <https://my.af.mil/afvecprod>. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

NEWS BRIEFS

Board of Trustees opening
The commander of the 12th Mission Support Group is filling a vacancy on the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees. All applicants must be either a military member (enlisted or officer) or civilian, and must reside or work on Randolph. All volunteers submitting applications meet a nomination board. Three nominee's names will be presented to the Texas State Board of Education, which makes the final selection. An application form may be picked up at the 12th MSG commander's office in the Taj Mahal and turned in by close of business today. The selection panel is tentatively scheduled to meet Sept. 21-23. For more information, call Lt. Col. Jim Andersen at 652-1205.

Hurricane Katrina aid programs
Red Cross financial assistance for shelter and non-shelter evacuees is available at 1-800-975-7585. People who want to make cash donations can contact the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org, the Air Force Aid Society at www.afas.org or Friends of the Family Support Center at 652-5321. Clothing and supplies may be donated to the Red Cross or the Air Force Aid Society, as indicated above, or by contacting United Way at 211 or the Company Grade Officers Association at 652-1985. Volunteers are welcome to contact the Salvation Army at 352-2000.

Katrina-displaced Federal Employees
About 1,500 Veterans Administration and 34 Defense Commissary employees are among the 4,000 federal employees still not accounted for in the confusion surrounding the Hurricane Katrina evacuation. VA employees should call 1-888-766-2474 as soon as possible to provide identification and location information. DECA employees should call 1-877-925-6655 or commercial (210) 925-1109 (password 1109) or e-mail Katrina.help@deca.mil.

Pay entitlements for wounded members
A member who is entitled to Imminent Danger Pay and hospitalized for a wound or injury received as a result of hostile action is entitled to continue the IDP for up to three months after the month in which the wound or injury occurred. Once out of the hospital, however, the IDP is not authorized. For details, visit Customer Service at 652-1851 or go to finance.callcenter@randolph.af.mil.

Appointment phone number change
All Randolph Clinic medical appointments are now booked through the San Antonio Consult and Appointment Management Office by calling 916-9900. Appointments can also be made on the Internet at www.tricareonline.com. Dental appointments are still made by calling 652-1846, and Life Skills appointments are still made at 652-2448.

Construction on Lower Seguin Road
Construction on Lower Seguin Road has begun again, but the south gate will remain open. Repaving will be finished in about two weeks, according to officials of the Texas Department of Transportation. Traffic will be reduced to one lane as the road surfacing process requires. People can expect delays during this time.

Uniform requirements change
Air Education and Training Command directed that the battle dress uniform or the military flight suit will be the uniform of the day for all Air Force members.

Ambassadors applications available
Military members who want to become Randolph Ambassadors for 2006 should fill out an application available in the 12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs office in the Taj Mahal.

AETC housing privatization process underway

By Ralph Monson
Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

The Air Force's largest single housing privatization project drew strong interest from potential developers and investors during an industry and financial forum Aug. 23-25 in New York City.

The forum provided information on Air Education and Training Command's Group II Housing Privatization Project to nearly 250 real estate, property management and financial professionals.

"We are pleased with the interest shown in the Group II project," said Col. Leonard Patrick, AETC civil engineer.

The project includes about 4,000 housing units at seven bases: Randolph AFB, Goodfellow AFB and Laughlin AFB, Texas.; Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Columbus AFB and Keesler AFB, Miss. and Vance AFB, Okla.

The housing privatization program

was initiated by the Department of Defense in 1996 to speed up the revitalization of family housing. The Air Force estimates nearly 40,000 of its existing military family housing units are considered inadequate by today's standards.

Housing officials say it would cost more than \$7 billion and take over 12 years to revitalize substandard housing through traditional military housing programs.

"While the Air Force has worked hard to maintain and revitalize our aging family housing, the quality of many of our units is just not where it should be," Colonel Patrick said. "This project is going to enable AETC to get there much faster and at a much lower cost."

The command civil engineer told forum attendees the need to provide Air Force families with access to quality, affordable housing is an important element in military readiness.

"Abraham Maslow's well-known 'hierarchy of needs' includes shelter as one of our most important needs,"

Colonel Patrick said. "We can't afford to have our deployed warfighters worrying about whether or not the plumbing and air conditioning are working at home."

Unlike traditional military construction projects or government acquisition programs, housing privatization is a real estate transaction. While the government may loan the developer a certain portion of the money required for the project, the developer must also arrange for other necessary loans from financial institutions to fund the development.

For example, while development costs for AETC's Group II project could be close to \$500 million, the maximum amount the government can directly loan is capped at about \$200 million.

"For every dollar the Air Force commits, in housing and privatization, the private sector will invest much more," Colonel Patrick said.

Having received the program overview at the industry and financial

forums, prospective developers are now participating in individual site visits to each installation. Site visits planned for Columbus, Keesler and Maxwell have been postponed because of Hurricane Katrina and the visit to Randolph was completed. The current Group II schedule is:

- Vance, Sept. 14
- Goodfellow, Sept. 20
- Laughlin, Sept. 21
- Columbus, To be determined
- Maxwell, To be determined
- Keesler, To be determined

This is the second grouped housing privatization project for the Air Force and AETC. Source selection for AETC's Group I Housing Privatization Project is underway with award of the four-installation lease anticipated later this year. The Group I project includes nearly 3,000 housing units at Altus AFB, Okla.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; Sheppard AFB, Texas; and Tyndall AFB, Fla.

For more information, go to the Jones Lang LaSalle Privatization Support Contractor Web site at www.jllpsc.com.

Operation Summer Survivor comes to successful close

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Operation Summer Survivor: Xtreme Challenge kicked off in May and ended Sept. 5, boasting a successful campaign on Randolph.

The focus of this year's campaign included suicide prevention, taking care of one another and being a better wingman.

"This year's campaign went very well," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Linville, wing safety and occupational health specialist. "Randolph reported only three mishaps and also experienced no fatalities."

Part of the campaign is the Battle of the Groups competition that was held between the 12th Medical Group, 12th Mission Support Group, 12th Operations Group and 12th Maintenance Directorate.

The 12th Medical Group was the winner of this year's Battle of the Groups Campaign and received the commander's trophy.

Each group focused on a different safety topic. For example, during the last stretch of the

campaign, the 12th OG focused on drunk driving and hunting safety, while the 12th MSG focused on back to school safety. The 12th MX focused their campaign on heat stress, while the 12th MDG focused their topics on gas pump safety and fatigued driving.

"The 12th Medical Group made safety its number one goal during the campaign," said 1st Lt. Ron Vesey, 12th MDG. "We are very proud of our win for the Battle of the Groups. The group worked hard, as did all the organizations on base."

Last year, the Air Force lost 32 members, which included one AETC member, during the period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day.

"The campaign is an important one because the summer months are typically the worst for losses within the Air Force," Sergeant Linville said. "People are trying to get more things done with vacations. They tend to take more chances and lose focus on being safe in their daily activities. But this year's campaign proved a success."

BATTLE of the GROUPS

The Battle of the Groups competition kicked off as part of the Operation Summer Survivor: Xtreme Challenge campaign and ran through Sept. 5.

The goal of the competition was for the organizations to gather as many points as they could by performing different safety checks or safety related events around base.

GROUP	TOTAL
MDG	5,284.66
OG	3,652.25
MX	1,305.94
MSG	561.93

Recent revisions to child safety seat laws now apply

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Checking to make sure a child safety seat is secured and installed properly only takes a few minutes and can be everything when coming to a child's safety.

A Child Passenger Safety law in Texas, passed on Sept. 1, states that all children younger than 5 years of age and less than 36 inches tall are required to be in a child safety seat system.

According to the law, booster seats are considered child safety seat systems, as long as the seat is appropriate for the child, taking into consideration weight and height.

A booster seat is a type of child safety seat that elevates and positions children so the vehicle lap and shoulder belts fit them properly, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Children who have outgrown their convertible or forward-facing child safety seats, but are too small to ride in the adult seatbelts, should be properly restrained in a booster seat.

A booster seat is designed to fit children who are 4 to 8 years old, or who weigh at least 40 pounds and are up to four feet and nine inches tall.

Booster seats without a back are used in vehicles with a high seat back where the child's head can be supported, up to the top of the ears, by the vehicle

seat back or head restraint.

High-back booster seats are used in vehicles with a low seat back where the child's head can't be supported by the vehicle seat back or head restraint. Some booster seat models have a removable back.

The NHTSA recommends children ride in a child safety seat with a harness until their shoulders are above the top of the strap slots. The harness provides upper torso, head and neck protection.

When children outgrow their safety seat, they should ride in an age and size appropriate restraint, such as a belt-positioning booster seat.

Children are ready to use an adult safety belt when they can place their back firmly against the vehicle seat back cushion with their knees bent over the vehicle seat cushion.

The lap belt must fit low and tight across the child's upper thighs, according to the NHTSA. The shoulder belt should rest over the shoulder and across the chest.

"Parents should always use a car or booster seat to make sure their child is safe in the unlikely event of a car accident," said Femi O'Grady, child development center annex director.

The child development center has literature on correctly installing car and booster seats.

For more information, people can call 652-1140 or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.



Know the Child Safety Seat Laws

- Rear-facing infant seats - In the back seat, from birth to one year old and at least 20 pounds unless the seat manufacturer states otherwise
- Forward-facing toddler seats - In the back seat, from age one and 20 pounds, to about age four and 40 pounds
- Booster seats - In the back seat, from about age four to at least age eight, unless 4'9"
- Safety belts - In the back seat, at age eight or older, or taller than 4'9" or until the child's back is straight and knees are bent at the edge of the vehicle seat

Corrosion control: Paint removal is a blast

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

Paint on airplanes is about more than just adding color to the flight line.

"The paint is there to protect the metal from corrosion. That's a maintenance function," said Tony Hicks, assistant corrosion control division chief in the 12th Maintenance Directorate. "Choice of colors is an operational decision. Our job is to see that the paint the operations people choose is properly maintained."

Mr. Hicks should know his subject. He brings to this job more than 27 years of experience and knows airplanes from the inside out, as do the 20 people who work in his division. They divide the corrosion control work into four phases; washing, sealing, stripping, and painting.

Randolph is situated in a part of the country where corrosion problems are considered to be moderate, so the T-1s, T-6s, T-37s and T-38s are washed every 90 days and the T-43s are washed every 120 days.

A coat of paint can add hundreds of pounds of dead weight to an airplane, so the Air Force policy is to avoid more than three coats of paint on any airplane, Mr. Hicks said. That means there has to be a way to strip off old paint without damaging the metal. This complete process is done on Air Force aircraft every eight to 10 years.

In the past the stripping process was done with harsh chemicals that dissolved the old paint but posed severe hazards to both the workers and the environment. In 1988, Air Education and Training Command chose Randolph, Columbus AFB, Miss., and Sheppard AFB, Texas, to receive plastic media blast units to do the paint stripping operation with each unit serving several AETC bases. This process eliminates the environmental hazards associated with the old methods.

The blast unit here is an airtight booth, large enough

to hold any of Randolph's airplanes except the T-43. Large compressors create pressure to blow fine plastic beads against the airplane's surface, stripping off the paint but doing no damage to the underlying metal.

"Even with the low 35 pounds per square inch pressure we use, the blast can cut through a worker's cloth sleeve and make a nasty burn on the skin," said Tony De La Garza, section work leader.

Separate compressors supply breathing air to the workers and vacuum the spent media from the screened floor.

The workers wear a special hood with an integral cloth collar that fits tightly around the neck. They also wear a close-fitting respirator inside the hood, leather gloves, sturdy boots and Tyvek coveralls. Then they seal the cuffs and any openings with duct tape.

When stripping an airplane, which can take eight to 12 hours, the crew normally consists of four workers in the booth, one safety observer watching through special windows and one person controlling the various air handlers.

The spent media is collected in filtered bins and reused for as many as eight airplanes before it is put into barrels and returned to the manufacturer. The exhausted media is then recycled into commercial products, such as cultured marble and building materials.

Randolph uses about 10,000 pounds of media every six months, Mr. De La Garza said.

Before a plane can be put into the stripping booth, however, it goes through a highly detailed, time consuming sealing process. Every opening, seam and non-metallic part on the exterior of the plane must be sealed so that the fine media cannot penetrate the interior where it could cause havoc to sensitive electronics and operating components. Using special rubberized tapes and hot glue, and carefully following the technical orders, the crew can take up to four days to complete the sealing process.



Rudy Gonzales, 12th Maintenance Directorate Plastic Media Blast Unit technician, prepares to blast away the old paint from a Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas T-38C. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

After the stripping process, the tapes and glue must be removed. The crews use small hand-held grinders with abrasive pads to finish the job and take off any paint the tapes covered.

Finally, the airplane is ready for painting and the final colors, trim and decals are applied.

"With our equipment, we can do the job in about 10 days and for less than a quarter of the cost at a depot facility," said Mr. De La Garza. "This kind of corrosion control is part of the maintenance process that keeps planes like the T-37 flying for 50 years. That's one way we protect our investment in good airplanes."

Tailgating: Making a dangerous situation worse

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Almost 7 million automobile crashes occur every year in the United States, with most of those accidents attributed to aggressive driving, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Tailgating, or following another car too closely, is one example of aggressive driving.

"Tailgating is an unsafe driving condition and drivers on base can be

cited for it," said Master Sgt. Richard Sherman, 12th Security Forces Squadron operation superintendent.

Traveling too close to another vehicle increases the chance of an accident. The average stopping distance for a loaded tractor-trailer, for example, traveling at 55 miles per hour is 196 feet, while the average stopping distance for an automobile is 133 feet, according to the NHTSA.

"The two-second rule is the safest approach when following someone," Sergeant Sherman added. "Drivers should keep a two-second distance

between themselves and the vehicle in front of them, no matter what speed you are traveling."

This will give the driver plenty of time to stop or maneuver around the other vehicle should something happen, such as a sudden stop or a flat tire, the sergeant said.

Adverse highway conditions, such as rain, ice and debris, increase the distance drivers need to stop safely.

"There is no one real reason why drivers tailgate, however, most tailgate due to their own impatience," Sergeant Sherman said. "If someone

is tailgating you, you should try to let them safely pass you."

The worst thing drivers can do is to antagonize the other driver who is tailgating them by slowing down, the sergeant added. This could cause road rage and make the situation worse.

According to the NHTSA, motorists should remember to keep their cool in traffic, be patient and courteous to other drivers, and correct unsafe driving habits that are likely to endanger or provoke other motorists.

For more information, call 652-1355 or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Parental involvement essential for success in school

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

School can be a tough time for children, but parents can make the year less stressful by getting involved with their child's education.

Parental involvement is important to a child's growth and learning process during the school years.

Involvement can include a variety of things, according to the National Education Association Web site. Parents can read to their child, check their homework every evening, discuss their child's progress with their teachers, limit television viewing on school nights and vote during school board elections.

Getting involved can be as simple as asking children how their day was. Asking this every day will show children that their parents care about their schoolwork. Some parents can only be involved a little, while others can be involved a lot more. But whatever the level of involvement is, parents should

stick with it to help make a difference in their children's lives, according to the NEA.

"Many parents are busy and may not be able to come to the school as often as they would like," said Donna Boehm, Randolph Elementary School counselor. "Although it is wonderful when they can visit, it is more important to keep the lines of communication open between the school and home. The school staff has e-mail and voice mail access, which makes it easy for teachers and administrators to be reached."

The base elementary school offers parents many chances to volunteer and spend time at the school, Ms. Boehm said. Parents can visit with the teachers, have lunch with their children, attend programs or join the parent-teacher organization. Parents are encouraged to call the school and ask about volunteer opportunities.

"When parents are visible at the school, the child gets the feeling that school is important," Ms. Boehm said.

When the parents can be involved at school, children can go farther in their education. A home environment that encourages learning is more important than income, education level or cultural background, according to the NEA. When children and parents talk regularly about school, children are able to perform better. Actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school issues are beneficial in higher student achievement.

"No matter how close the teacher and child relationship is, the parents are the ones a child most wants to please," Ms. Boehm said. "Parents have to remember that they're in a strong position to motivate and encourage a child."

Randolph's students are unique, Ms. Boehm said. "I believe our students are a reflection of the best parents," Ms. Boehm said. "Keep up the good work at home!"

For more information, visit www.nea.org. For more information on the elementary school, call 357-2345.

Randolph Airmen respond to gulf coast disaster

Over the past few weeks, Randolph has responded to help those affected by the worst natural disaster in United States history. Since Hurricane Katrina, Team Randolph members have donated their time and resources to help displaced families get back on their feet. From a hot meal and warm shower to money and clothes, the people here continue to ensure help is available for those in need.



Retired Chief Master Sgt. Brian Murray and Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Woodruff, Headquarters 19th Air Force, of the Randolph Chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association receive a contribution from Patrica Morris at the door of the base commissary. Volunteers from the Sergeants Association manned the reception table for several days last week to raise money for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)



Staff Sgt. Shannon Roman, 12th Medical Group, inprocesses Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Airmen returning from deployment to Southwest Asia. The 12th Flying Training sent 25 people to Houston International Airport to welcome home the 81st Training Wing Airmen and help reunite them with their displaced families. (Photo by Dan Solis)

USAF Relief Efforts as of Sept. 12	
Rescues	5,521
Sorties	2,503
Evacuee passengers flown	27,252
JTF Support passengers flown	11,710
Cargo tons delivered	5,501
Aeromedical Evacuations	2,558
Civil Air Patrol sorties	280
Source: U.S. Air Force Snapshot	



Children enjoy a picnic here Sept. 8 hosted by Air Force Family Services for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. A number of families with military connections are staying at Randolph after losing their homes during the hurricane. (Photo by David Terry)

POW/MIA Recognition Day

Korean war vet Oscar Cortez flies the POW flag every day, just below the stars and stripes

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

"A teacher from the elementary school across the street asked me why I was flying the black Prisoner of War flag below the American flag on the pole in my front yard," Oscar Cortez said.

"Do you know someone who was a POW?" she asked.

"Yes, I was one," he replied, "for two and a half years."

Mr. Cortez is a short, quiet man. He has a friendly grip when he shakes your hand. His house looks like many others on his street, neat and well cared for. But the flags on the pole in front of his house fly every day in a testimony that marks this place as something different.

Inside the house the walls in the living room are full of military mementos alongside the many photos of children and grandchildren.

He was a 17-year-old high school dropout in 1950 with limited prospects for work in San Antonio where he grew up, so the Army looked like as good a choice as any. On Feb. 16, he enlisted and went immediately to Fort Riley, Kan., for basic training. With no particular skills to offer the service, he became an infantryman and was given a first assignment to Japan.

He was waiting for his ship at Fort Lewis in Washington when North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25. His unit, the 2nd Infantry Division was short of artillery support, so he was "volunteered" into the 15th Artillery Battalion and three weeks later was on his way to Korea. It was his 18th birthday, he recalled, the day the ship pulled away from Pier 91 in Seattle.

"We arrived in Pusan, on the southeast coast of Korea, on July 31," he said, the details coming easily to memory. "That was the last toehold the American forces held in the country and we were immediately sent to the perimeter to set up our 105-millimeter howitzers. Then in the middle of September, we were part of the force that broke out and started to



POW/MIA Recognition Day - Sept. 16

push the North Koreans back. After that, it was a race to follow the enemy as they went into full retreat.

On the front lines in December 1950, Mr. Cortez and his fellow soldiers endured a severely cold winter but fought on as best they could.

"The ground was so frozen that we couldn't dig in our guns so we had to do the 'cannoneer's hop' to get out of the way of the gun when it recoiled," he said. "Then the snipers started making life difficult for us. We piled

"Our gun crew was annihilated. Somehow I wasn't hit. I pretended like I was dead, too. Twice a Chinese soldier picked up my wrist to see if I had a watch to steal. Then another soldier turned me over to check my pockets. He found the grenade in my front jacket pocket and saw I was alive. That did it. I was his prisoner."

Oscar Cortez
Korean War POW

into our deuce-and-a-half and started south again. I was riding in the right front of the box when our driver was shot. I emptied my carbine at the house where the fire was coming from, but the Chinese were everywhere around us. We hit the ditch and tried to make a stand but we didn't have a chance. One time a grenade hit me in the chest but failed to go off. Then every thing was still around me."

Cortez grimaced as he remembered the gore and the smells of the carnage that day and the names of his buddies who didn't make it.

"Our gun crew was annihilated," he said, his sentences coming in short bursts. "Somehow I wasn't hit. I pretended like I was dead, too. Twice a Chinese soldier picked up my wrist to see if I had a watch to steal. Then another soldier turned me over to check my pockets. He found the grenade in my front jacket pocket and saw I was alive. That did it. I was his prisoner."



Surrounded by mementos of his military service, Oscar Cortez holds a keepsake of his two and a half years as a prisoner of war in North Korea. The spoon in his hands was hammered from an artillery shell casing by another POW. Mr. Cortez ate his meals with this spoon in the prison camp. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

The day was bitterly cold, he recalled. He traded three packs of cigarettes with his Chinese captors for his own sleeping bag that was on the truck and began the long walk northward. He was in a group of about 130 American prisoners when the camp where they were held was strafed by a P-51. A number of them were killed but again he came through without a scratch.

In April 1951, Mr. Cortez, together with another American soldier and a Canadian soldier, made plans to escape. They slipped out of the camp and traveled by night, hiding during the day. After three days, they found a farmer who hid them in a cave and brought them food. The Canadian decided to go on alone and they never heard from him again. Mr. Cortez and his buddy were betrayed to the Chinese 15 days later and returned to the prison camp.

The poor food and unsanitary conditions in the camp were fatal for many prisoners. Mr. Cortez came down with beriberi, a debilitating disease caused by a lack of proper vitamins. He stretched his hands around his ankles to show how much his legs were swollen.

"I was delirious when a medic gave me an injection of some kind. The swelling dropped but I still had trouble walking when they moved the whole camp to a new place right on the south bank of the Yalu River. They put me in an ox cart and later a boat or I might not have made it," he said.

"An English-speaking Chinese soldier tried to

brainwash us into believing in the communist philosophy but I wouldn't buy it," he said. "Some of us Latino Americans would talk in Spanish and that really confused the Chinese. One time a Spanish-speaking Chinese came in to interrogate me but I told him in English not to mess with me. After that they left me alone.

Just before we were repatriated, a turncoat American soldier who stayed behind told me that the Chinese were afraid of the Latinos. They must have thought we were pretty rough characters."

Life was pretty dull in the camp, he said.

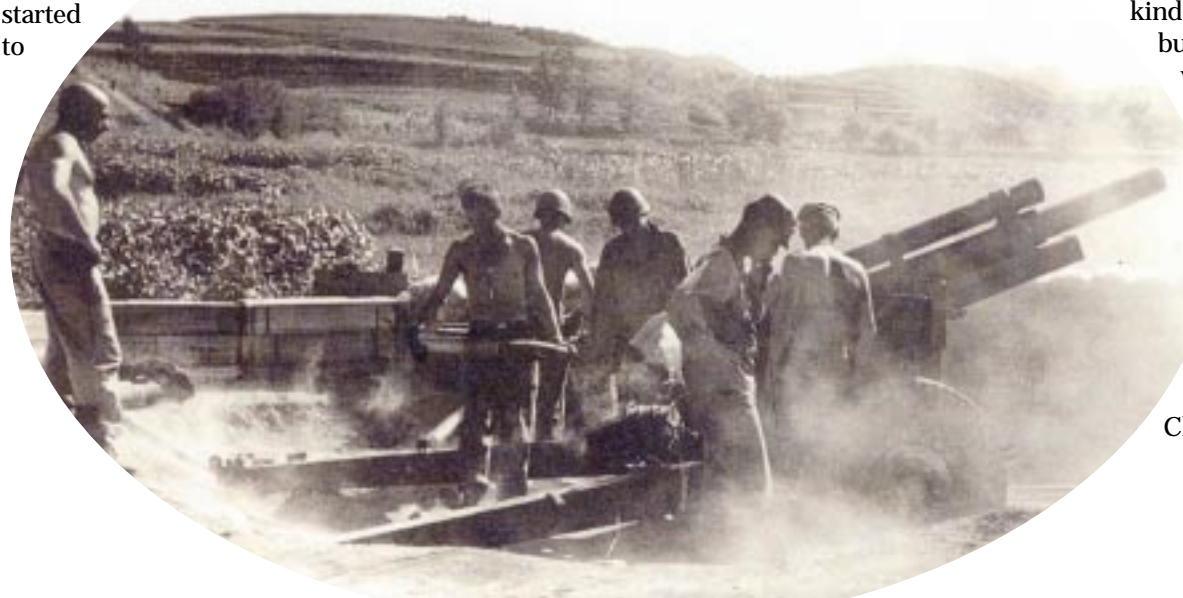
"One time, the Chinese gave us a guitar and we had great times making music. We had everything from country western pickers to classical guitarists. Some of them were really good musicians. That was about the only entertainment we had."

"We didn't know when we could believe what the Chinese told us about the war, but when we saw an F-86 doing victory rolls down the length of the Yalu above our camp, we knew the war was over. We cheered for all we were worth," he laughed.

The armistice was signed at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953, and 30 days later Mr. Cortez walked across the dividing line there a free man once again.

He served a tour in Korea a decade later and also pulled a year's duty in Vietnam. He retired from the Army in 1970 as a staff sergeant civil engineer. Then after 18 years in the maintenance department of the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, he retired for good to his little house across the street from the elementary school.

According to records of the Veterans Administration, he is rated as 90 percent disabled but that doesn't stop him from volunteering at his church and at the local chapter of the Former POWs Association. The license plate on his car reads "Former POW," and he is full of war stories to back up that claim. Just ask him.



A crew of the 15th Field Artillery Battalion fires the 105-millimeter howitzer in Korea late in 1950. Private Oscar Cortez was a member of a crew like this. (Courtesy photo)

Caution urged for high school students playing sports

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

As the football player dives for the ball, hopefully in just enough time not to let it drop, he pulls a muscle in his leg and falls to the field in pain. The coach and other players rush to see if he is OK.

This injury, and others, could be prevented with simple warm-ups and other precautions.

According to the Safe Kids USA Web site, every year more than 3.5 million children ages 14 and under suffer sports injuries serious enough to require medical treatment, while more than 450,000 kids go to the emergency room with injuries from school sports.

Some may think that the most common sports injuries occur from tackles and collisions, however, strains and repetitive-motion injuries are also causes of injuries in students in the sixth grade and higher. According to www.usa.safekids.org, immature bones and poor conditioning contribute to injuries as well.

Parents and coaches need to make sure the players warm-up before every game and start the season with a physical health check-up.

"Flexibility is important in preventing chronic

injuries that result from muscle imbalance," said Patrick Fay, fitness programs manager "A regular, comprehensive stretching routine, following a sufficient warm-up, can go a long way toward maintaining good flexibility."

Early in the sports season, high school athletes frequently experience overuse injuries, Mr. Fay said. They often don't work as hard during the off-season as they do during the season. This sudden change can result in muscle strains and inflammatory conditions.

Players are also more likely to be injured in practice than during the actual game, because they may not wear their protective gear during practice times, according to the Web site. It is important to wear protective gear during practice times and game times.

Protective gear is very important when playing sports and should always be the right size and properly adjusted.

Athletes should also remember to stay hydrated while playing. Players can drink either water or an electrolyte drink. In two hours of activity, young players can lose a quart of fluid through sweating, according to the Web site.

For more information, visit www.usa.safekids.org or call the fitness center at 652-4311.



Randolph High School student Mitchell Mounkes prepares his shoulder pads before football practice. (Photo by David Terry)

"Push up" physical training test scores



Tom Newman, a regular customer at the base gym, demonstrates the correct form for pushups. Although retired for seven years, he maintains his health with a planned routine of physical workouts. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

This article is the second in a series providing information about preparation for the Air Force Fitness test.

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Push-ups account for 10 percent of the physical training test. While some may have no problem completing this stage of the test, others may.

The base fitness center and the Health and Wellness Center offer some advice and tips when it comes to push-ups.

According to Air Force Instruction 10-248, the push-up is one test used to assess a member's upper body muscular fitness.

"During the test, a person is given one minute to do as many push-ups as they can," said Patrick Fay, fitness programs manager. "But they have to remember to do them correctly."

According to the AFI, the member begins in the starting position, with their arms fully extended and their body in a straight line from head to heel. The feet should be no more than 12 inches apart. The member's hands and toes must remain on the floor or the mat during the entire assessment.

The body should maintain a rigid form from head to heel, in other words, the back must remain straight, unless the member is resting. The member can rest in

the up position only and the feet cannot be supported or braced.

When completing a push-up from the starting position with elbows extended, the member will lower their body to the ground until the upper arm is at least parallel to the floor, with the elbow bent at least 90 degrees before pushing back up to the starting position. The chest may touch the floor.

"If the member doesn't come down far enough, the push-up does not count," Mr. Fay said. "One full push-up will be counted after the member returns to the starting position."

Mr. Fay suggests if people are having trouble performing push-ups, they should keep practicing.

"Members should keep practicing their push-ups," Mr. Fay said. "That is the best way to learn."

Kim Houk, HAWC exercise physiologist, suggests people progress as they teach themselves how to perform better push-ups. Ms. Houk suggests practicing push-ups against a wall first, then against a table, followed by a bench and eventually on the floor.

"This way, if a person is weak in that area, they learn to gradually lift a higher percentage of their own body weight," Ms. Houk said. "A person can learn to do push-ups correctly without straining."



SPORTS BRIEFS

Coaches needed

The fitness center looks for qualified coaches for the 2006 Varsity Men's and Women's basketball team. The season runs through March. Teams play in local league tournaments and throughout the state.

Interested parties need to fill out an Air Force

Form 303 and submit it to the fitness center. For more information, call Rikk Prado at 652-2955.

Golf tournament

The San Antonio Chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association holds its annual scholarship golf tournament Sept. 30.

For more information, call Rufus Reed at 652-3388.

Circuit challenge

A circuit challenge takes place Wednesday from 11-11:45 a.m. or noon to 12:45 p.m. in Hangar 71. People can test their fitness level against a friend or co-workers or challenge themselves.

Gym announces new towel policy

Effective Oct. 1, the bath towel service in the fitness centers will be discontinued. This was necessary to redirect funding to meet operational needs.

The fitness center will continue to provide small workout towels to maintain the required level of hygiene and sanitation standards while customers workout on the fitness equipment.

Customers are asked to please use only one workout towel per visit to the fitness center.

